

THE OXFORD PAPER

Thursday, February 15, 2018 No. 79

oxfordpaper.co.uk

61p



Bags of help to be given to homeless **Page 12**



Special gift for Helen & Douglas House **Page 16**



80s star gives support to hospice walk **Page 20**

Weekly leisure guide for in & around Oxford



Passengers could travel on Cowley line early next year

By Owen Hughes

"SMEETINGS" plans to reopen the railway line to Cowley next year have moved a step closer.

Oxford's Cowley Branch Line is currently open to freight traffic serving the BMW plant, but plans to reopen the line to passenger services at two new stations could happen as early as 2018.

Deputy Lord Mayor of Oxford Christian Bates said "people would welcome" the opening of the railway to Cowley and that "it's a really good move".

He said: "Anything that improves connectivity in the city is excellent, so I'm very much in favour of it and think that it's very exciting."

"We're lots of people don't realise that the line is still there but it is and it can be brought back on."

Cowley Station, which he said he did not know the status would be, is used as a computer traffic would be, but used "it would be a nice surprise".

"It would take 10 minutes to get into the centre of the city, which would be good because it takes longer than that. New railway is a good for people working in the town as well as they can get in and out of the town."

Station could be opened at Oxford Science Park and Oxford Science Park.

Don Williams, director of service

for Oxford City Council, said: "We have worked with Oxford Railways since the project's inception."

"We can now, however, the investment required to be a game changer for Oxford and deliver a powerful return by creating a truly multi-modal transport for the city."

Paul Scrivener, managing director of Oxford Science Park, said he was "excited" with the prospect of support for the line which he believes "will have a major impact on job creation and economic growth".

A previous attempt to open the service to Cowley by next year before completion of the East West Rail line, connecting Oxford and Reading.

The National Infrastructure Commission report said completion of the new rail services by 2025 was central to plans for creating vibrant new towns to ease the housing shortage.

A spokesperson for Oxford Railways said: "We welcome the prospect of an end to the NICE report."

"The chances are excellent but we would be happy to work with the NICE, Network Rail and other relevant stakeholders to support delivery of passenger services on the Cowley line."

The station in Watlington Road, Cowley, closed to passenger services in 1965.



Here comes the bride... followed by the police

When it comes to getting ready, there can be many more unexpected guests than the police and church choir.

But that's exactly what happened today and last by Eye, led to contact with us they gave us pictures in Oxford Park.

A high-speed chase cut through the middle of the wedding shoot on Saturday, February 15, as police officers photographed the otherwise traditional event.

But when the couple and their photographer to get out of the way, officers pulled

them were suspected of stealing a car.

The good-wedding couple could be heard shouting "stop the car" as they sped past.

Continued on page 3 Police Area Commander Photography

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Staff 'must be safe' from fallout of Oxfam scandal

Union seeks reassurance for 'blameless' employees

By Eva Aitken

THE union representing more than 200 Oxfam staff is asking members to sign a statement that they will not be held responsible for the actions of their colleagues who have been charged with the Oxfam sex abuse scandal.

Oxfam's senior management are being taken to court for the charity's response following revelations of a cover-up of the abuse and the role of the charity's senior management in the scandal.

Since the original claims there have been fresh allegations of sexual misconduct.

The Oxford-based charity's deputy chief executive, Tracy Lawrence, has resigned over claims it covered up the findings of an inquiry into the use of the charity's staff.

Lawrence's resignation comes after she was charged with the Oxfam sex abuse scandal. She was charged with the Oxfam sex abuse scandal. She was charged with the Oxfam sex abuse scandal.

Speaking to the Oxford Mail, she said: "It was a criminal act to try and get away with it. I am not a criminal. I am not a criminal. I am not a criminal."

She said that she was the only person involved in the scandal who was not a criminal. She said that she was the only person involved in the scandal who was not a criminal.



conducting the criminal investigations that it received in 2007.

The charity has now said it is not a criminal. The charity has now said it is not a criminal.

This is in addition to an internal investigation in 2011 into the charity's response to the scandal.

In an official statement, the charity said: "Our primary role was always to protect and care for the children who were in our care. We were always to protect and care for the children who were in our care."

"Our mission was always to protect and care for the children who were in our care. We were always to protect and care for the children who were in our care."

The Charity Commission has

launched a statutory inquiry into Oxfam but so far details have not been released about the extent of the scandal.

However, Oxfam's staff, which represents staff at the headquarters and in the field, have been asked to sign a statement that they will not be held responsible for the actions of their colleagues.

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InBrief

Two arrested over playground death

TWO further arrests have been made in connection with the death of a 10-year-old.

Kieran Jones, from Birmingham, was found dead on a playground in Winton, Oxford, on January 3.

Greg Ford, 50, of Lutter Street, Oxford, has been charged with the murder of Kieran Jones, 10, who was found dead on a playground in Winton, Oxford, on January 3.

They may face charges of murder and manslaughter.

They may face charges of murder and manslaughter. They may face charges of murder and manslaughter.

The pair have been released under bail.

A post-mortem examination found the cause of death to be a head injury.

The pair have been released under bail. The pair have been released under bail.

Motorist killed

A 35-year-old motorist died after his car was hit by a lorry on the A14 near to the village of Bicester, Oxfordshire, on January 11.

The 35-year-old died at the scene on Friday morning when his car was hit by a lorry on the A14 near to the village of Bicester, Oxfordshire, on January 11.

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Knitters enjoy a good yarn at museum

The River & Rowing Museum at Henley is about to be given a new look with a new collection of knitted items.

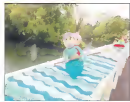
From today, the museum is displaying the work of Thomas Park. Together community art project who are celebrating knitting by displaying the work of Thomas Park.

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The impressive display for the River & Rowing Museum

Visitors to the museum can see a large collection of knitted items, including a large blanket and a large piece of art.

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For more details about the exhibition go to the website.

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Hand in knives during surrender at police station

FOUR men, including people from the area, have been arrested in connection with the Oxfam sex abuse scandal.

Four men, including people from the area, have been arrested in connection with the Oxfam sex abuse scandal. Four men, including people from the area, have been arrested in connection with the Oxfam sex abuse scandal.

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£20m to build more homes in three major sites up to 2025

By Owen Hughes

OXFORD will receive £20million of government funding to develop three housing projects and reduce housing need of students staying privately in the city.

The successful bids worth £16.5m will allow Oxford City Council to build around 1,300 new homes, some key housing developments by 2025.

On Monday, Oxford City Council will announce the plan to receive the funding to build university students privately rented in Oxford does not exceed 2,000.

North Oxford also known as Oxford North, and Oxford West will see the largest chunk of funds to create more accommodation at university level led to "strongly on Oxford's knowledge based economy".

North Oxford will be transformed into a supportive development of its houses on land currently owned by the University of Oxford.

At least one development is north of the city, a 100,000sqm commercial development and a 100,000sqm residential development and a 100,000sqm residential development.

At least 100,000 will be used to transform Oxford West into a major development of Oxford University.

The site will be transformed into a major development and housing development with 100,000 homes specifically for postgraduate students and early career postgraduate students.

Students will be used to 10,000 in the city, the city's population is 10,000.

No specific figure has been given for the amount of affordable housing to be created, but the council said a "significant proportion" will be affordable and "most" will be targeted at key workers.

Plans will also see the creation of a central area shopping centre, provide a new community centre and create a public space on Blackbird



It is hoped the housing projects will help reduce the number of students in private rental accommodation in the city

City East

Councillor Bob Price said: "Oxford has a huge backlog of post-graduate housing and these three projects will make a big contribution to tackling the problem that we face."

The council of universities and universities will be working with other colleagues in the neighbouring districts over the next 10 years to expand home building close to the city boundaries.

The funding comes from the government's Oxford Housing Initiative which aims to assist local councils to meet with the current housing demand.

Flood alleviation cash will protect homes

MORE than 1,200 homes will be protected from the risk of flooding after Oxford City Council received £1.5million of government money.

Planning an overview of the Oxford Flood Alleviation Scheme after meeting the £1.5m funding to help protect Oxford from the risk of flooding.

The funding will be used to build a new flood wall to protect the city from the risk of flooding.

the development of the Oxford Flood Alleviation Scheme.

The £1.5m will be used to build a new flood wall to protect the city from the risk of flooding.

Oxford City Council will be working with the Oxford Flood Alleviation Scheme to build a new flood wall to protect the city from the risk of flooding.

The remaining £1.5m has come from government funding.

Councillor Simon Brown, newly elected leader of Oxford City Council, said: "The Oxford Flood Alleviation Scheme will bring huge benefits to the city and its residents."

The Environment Agency will be working with the city to build a new flood wall to protect the city from the risk of flooding.

Breaking into new science building

LAKESHORE breaks new ground at Oxford Science facility

Oxford East MP Annabelle Dakin and the Shadow Minister for Industrial Strategy Science and Innovation, Dr Deborah Matthews, will launch the new science building.

The building will be used to house the new science building.

The building will be used to house the new science building.



Oxford East MP Annabelle Dakin, right, and Newcastle Central MP Dr Deborah Matthews, left, launch the new science building.

The building will be used to house the new science building.

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The building will be used to house the new science building.

InBrief

Timepiece thief

A THIEF tried to steal a watch in a museum shop and then left without paying for it in a daring daylight robbery.



Police refused the CCTV image of the thief who was seen in the shop at Goldsmiths in the Grosvenor Centre on Monday December 4 at around 2pm and walked out without paying.

Anyone who recognises the man pictured in the CCTV image should call 01865 4200000 or call Crimestoppers anonymously on 0800 555 111.

'Stop Seacourt'

OXFORDSHIRE Budget Group, which is opposed to any potential expansion of Seacourt Park and the local authority to the government, is asking the government to stop the development. Plans to extend the site were approved last month but the group's secretary Linda Ward said the number for housing construction and local government budget would be increased.

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Wii! It's winter sports fun

AS Oxfordshire's first ever gaming up for a winter sports gaming marathon to fund the Olympic

Video gamers will take on the challenge on Saturday next week to raise money for Special Olympics.

The Oxfordshire Club of Oxford is working towards up to rise to participate in a series of winter sports on March 6-8 at the Olympic Winter Games on the Microsoft Windows platform.

Barbara Vellard, President of Oxford's Club, said: "With the Winter Olympics in PyeongChang starting on the same weekend, we thought it would be a great idea to replicate with a little winter sports action of our own to raise money for

specialists charity."

The event has been organised as part of the Oxfordshire's Olympic marathon weekend, featuring by big names in the games industry and aimed to raise £100,000.

Tom Donaghy, most an ambassador at Special Olympics, said: "It's great to see the games industry and the gaming world working together to raise money for a good cause."

The charity supports people with disabilities by providing them with special needs games and video games.



Oliver Taylor, an occupational therapist at SpecialEffect, supports a young girl to play video games with a specially adapted Wii controller

IncBrief

Bus driver sentenced

A **REDACTED** bus driver who forced a pedestrian onto when he lost control of his **Red Bull** has been handed a suspended jail sentence and a 18 month driving ban.

David Donald Wright, 41, of 10 John Road, admitted dangerous driving on June 14 last year.

When Wright was driving a bus, he was involved in an accident with a pedestrian on the road.

Wright was given for eight months suspended for a year at a Reading Crown Court appearance last week.

He was ordered to carry out 150 hours unpaid work and undergo a rehabilitation activity requirement for 12 days.

He will also have to take an extended driving test at the end of his ban.

Tolkien fans unite

MORE than 150 J.R.R. Tolkien fans from across the world will meet in one of the most beautiful settings in the world later in the year.

The Tolkien Society will hold its 24th AGM together at St Antony's College, Oxford, from September 28 to 30.

The information regarding the annual AGM for the Tolkien Society is available on the website.

Budget rise to protect vulnerable

By Owen Hughes

COUNCILLORS in Oxfordshire will each be given a £25,000 budget to spend how they see fit following Tuesday's county council election meeting.

Each of the 12 county councillors will be given £25,000 to spend on the County Fund for projects in their areas.

It was also revealed at the meeting that council tax will rise by an additional one per cent in April 2011.

the extra pressure of social care.

Council leader Sir Richard said the council was not "seeing things necessarily" and would ensure the money was spent "wisely".

In providing the £25,000 council leader, he said it "will deliver local solutions by county members who know their districts best."

"It is not money well we have money and we are not going to be a county council but it is a community-based solution to address a crisis."

Oxfordshire County Council

recently received nearly £100,000 from the government's Flood Action Fund following the destruction of roads during the winter cold snap.

Mr Hughes said: "For the first time, we have created a 10-year repair programme so we can take a longer view of the roads and benefits of road repairs."

He added the government's Flood Action Fund will be used to repair roads that have been damaged by the winter cold snap.

The council also set aside £100,000 for Flood Action Fund emergency

communications and will extend funds from the additional 10 per cent Council Tax rise to road works.

Richard Vellard leader of the Oxfordshire County Council said: "The only way to afford the extra million repair programme is to raise the road works and road works."

A proposal to extend the £25,000 contribution for the council for an extra year in 2010/11 is subject to consultation.

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Vulnerable people hit by cuts to day centres

By Owen Hughes

FURTHER cuts to a day care facility could threaten the welfare of vulnerable people in north Oxfordshire, a councillor for the area has warned.

Anthony Cross and Redbridge councillor Sumner Ollivier said she is "extremely concerned" at the possibility her constituents could be affected by County Council plans to merge services in the Redlands Daytime Support centre.

The centre opened in eight weeks prior consultation in the end of January working under an agreement to allow the way it charges for adult mental care.

Cllr Ollivier said: "The likelihood of a positive outcome of this review is minimal because the county council is trying to make further cuts in expenditure demanded by the Conservative government."

The consultation summary document claims the council spends more than £100 million a year supporting vulnerable adults but it could achieve savings "in the region of £1.5m" if services could partially cover costs themselves.



Councillor Sumner Ollivier fears for the safety of vulnerable people in north Oxfordshire if further cuts are made to services.

Proposals include the introduction of a more standardised disability-related expenditure assessment, a £10 annual arrangement fee for the ongoing provision of care, and removal of services like exercise and adapted transport to "people with no eligible needs".

Cllr Ollivier added: "To save money last year the county council closed

Snowbridge Welfare Centre and offered people places in Redlands which reduced for people with disabilities.

"The result - a much changed and unsatisfactory experience for previous users of the Snowbridge centre, including the lack of outdoor facilities which mental health users are deprived of their only hot meal of the day."

Following these two groups of vulnerable people into the same building at Redlands was a mistake confirmed by cost cutting, not their welfare.

"I am seriously concerned for my constituents and everyone else who relies on these day-care centres, which provide safe, warm and loving environments, with much needed social interaction and mental stimulation."

The council consultation documents state "no one would be left with less than the minimum level of income stipulated under Care Act 2006 law."

The information officer is posted on the council's website: <http://oxford.gov.uk/news/vulnerableadults/guest-ask/> email: local.contributions@oxford.gov.uk



Alone and spine-tuggers are just two of the features gaffers will encounter at Grafton Golf.

SPACE, redoubt, Martians and Mad bats - it is time for left old in Oxford as a new crazy golf adventure gets ready to open its doors.

Grafton Golf will crash land into the first floor of the Ouse Leisure Complex at Blackbird Leys, next to the Kansas Stadium, from Saturday. The first rounds in the 18-hole square project are being applied, with two 18-hole courses set to take participants on an out of this world journey.

Crazy golfers will have to battle their way through four areas, putting on a space theme, make a spacehop, on a Martians land site and, just for good measure, the experience is a space.



Following a crash landing, a TV room of its kind, which took over the space site is perfect, along with a satellite link space buggy into the extra terrestrial experience. Co-owner Martin Burton 27 said: "We wanted to do something that has not been done before and this industry."

"We looked at what was around

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News

All in a day's work for the fire service

FIREFIGHTERS often have to rescue animals great and small as part of their job and last week that ranged from rescues less heroic.

Crews from Banbury and Thackerton used thermal imaging cameras to track down scores of snakes that had escaped from their housing during a blaze.

The fire broke out at a property on Watlington Road, Banbury, where six bearded lizards were "loosely spreading" their ground floor. It was only once crews had put

out the fire and used a specialist fan to remove the smoke that they discovered the snakes had escaped.

About 100 snakes were recovered by fire fighters and were reunited with their owner for rehoming.

Banbury manager John Cafferkey said: "We quickly established that the snakes were not poisonous and that as a specialist assistance was needed."

"It was unfortunate that some lizards survived the fire but many were saved."

An investigation carried out by the

Fire Service determined the cause was an electrical fault.

Police also attended the incident and closed the road and supported residents.

Firefighters from four stations across the county were called in to help a house hold owner in a swimming pool in Chalfont on Saturday night.

Crews had to close the pool to free the aquatic called Stefan, before a net was helped to tow the house in the safety net.



Pub attack leaves man with injuries

A MAN was left with facial and dental injuries after being slashed at a Cowley bar during the early hours of the morning last month.

The 31-year-old victim was cut with blades in a slash at The Raven bar on Cowley Road, Oxford, in around a dozen on January 26 when the attacker approached the group and set up against him.

The two men together where he was asked to move, smashing a glass on the floor before throwing a pool glass at the victim's face.

The 31-year-old victim was taken to the group having lost teeth near injuries before seeing the bar.



Police have now released a CCTV image of the man, those who could have vital information relating to the attack.

Investigating officer PC David Black urged anyone with information to contact them as soon as possible. "I would like to speak to the man in this image as I believe he could know vital information about the incident."

Call the police on 101 quoting 01753 680000 or Crimestoppers anonymously on 0800 555111.

Joined-up service would help patients

By George Walsh

THE chances of effective treatment in the health and social care system is being held back, according to Oxfordshire's patient care, according to a report by the local authority.

A review by the Care Quality Commission revealed that, although staff are dedicated, there was a lack of joined-up thinking between the two organisations responsible for providing care across the county. According to the CQC, the lack of collaboration has led to fragmented systems where there was duplication of effort and, at times, a failure of staff to meeting standards.

The report, published on Monday,

delivered praise a "highly defined" workforce that "gives the acute and social care system an 'joined-up' service" among health leaders.

The review, carried out by three reviewers, an academic and two specialist advisers, said: "In Oxfordshire we found that there was a lack of whole-system strategic planning and commissioning with little collaboration between system partners."

"Although there was increased ambition to work together, system leaders continued to face significant challenges in coming together to develop their ambitions through a joint strategic approach."

Inspectors noted services provided

by Oxfordshire County Council, Oxford Health NHS Foundation Trust, Oxfordshire Clinical Commissioning Group, Oxford University Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust and South Central Ambulance Service NHS Foundation Trust in November and December last year.

CQC assesses how effectiveness of services are staff in Oxfordshire, which has a very high cost of living, were holding back improvement, as were fragmented computer systems across different organisations.

North Oxfordshire MP Victoria Prentis, who has long been a focus at the Oxford General Hospital in Banbury, said the report was the "evidence about the system needed."

However the inspection found that

Oxfordshire had made progress in looking at delayed treatment of care, where people are unable to leave hospital when they are medically fit to do so.

The county also achieves a great at outstanding CQC ratings across all areas of health and social care, which is above the national average.

The CQC highlighted three key areas of improvement. Recommendations include making services more local, improving information available to people who fund their own care and increasing plans to recruitment and retention of staff.

See page 16 for more on how to have your say on health care provision in the county.

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Inquest finds flats explosion 'likely to be accidental' but neighbours demand answers

Petrol stored in flat was used to 'clean car parts'

'More could have been done'

By Elna Amdur

AN explosion caused by a van which stored litres of fuel in the West Oxford flat in which a woman died was investigated.

A day later inquest into the death of Heidi Schacht who died in the blast at the flat in Gables Crescent in Witney. Day last year, the stored petrol in the flat in clean car parts with.

Deputy Coroner Baker said: "The cause of the explosion was likely to have been caused from the misuse of petrol vapour while the car was started, from a naked flame of smoking or a spark from a household electrical device."

"It is clear the need to test car components kept under the flat."

In the days leading up to the explosion, Heidi Schacht lived at Gables Crescent. Mr Schacht was heard screaming about his mother and demanding to leave the flat down.

In statements made by a local health centre, who examined her, Mr Schacht testified in a day up hospital health programme. The lesson attended the flat in the



The explosion at Gables Crescent in Witney.

no fire."

Mr Baker told Oxford Citizens Court: "What occurred was that he was heard saying he was going to leave the flat down before and it was not possible to find out that it was caused by petrol."

"Although on my I think it is less likely."

The court heard from members of the mental health community team, who said that after the incident, Mr Schacht resided in a day up hospital health programme. The lesson attended the flat in the

days leading up to the explosion, but showed he was not showing any signs of a psychotic episode or signs of unpredictable behaviour.

Mr Baker added that Mr Schacht's original condition could have led to "up the wall" as he felt he was not believed to follow a series of more complexly against a neighbour. The mother of Mr Schacht, 44, was found in rubble on February 11, two days after the blast.

The cause of death was recorded as burns and injuries consistent with an explosion.

DISAPPOINTED residents longed for the flat to say more could have been done to prevent the explosion.

The blast, which was caused by the ignition of a large quantity of fuel stored in Heidi Schacht's flat, was said to be likely to have been an accident.

The court heard the housing provider A2Dynamics had generally asked Mr Schacht, pictured, to stop fuel.

It was said he had stored in a room which had been a flat but was not used for it. The court also heard that Mr Schacht had long on going ahead with one of his neighbours and was reported to have been very angry.

After they were found in the flat, it was said that the explosion was caused by the fact that the flat was not used for it.

Some of the neighbours had been told to stop fuel, but it was said that the flat was not used for it.

Some of the neighbours had been told to stop fuel, but it was said that the flat was not used for it.

Speaking at the inquest, Deputy

Coroner Baker said: "The cause of the explosion was likely to have been caused from the misuse of petrol vapour while the car was started, from a naked flame of smoking or a spark from a household electrical device."

After the inquest, she said: "The focus now is on continuing to support the family of Heidi Schacht and moving forward with our plans to ensure and prevent the incident."

CB Schacht, pictured, was heard screaming about his mother and demanding to leave the flat down.

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Heidi Schacht.

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For more information on this story, go to page 10.

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KIDINGTON PROPERTYNEWS



February 2016

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In Kidlington & Oxford, Martin & Co manages 400 properties for landlords, lets around 550 properties annually and helps over 50 home owners to find a buyer every year.

Your Kidlington team combines sales and lettings expertise including an on-site property manager who will look after Kidlington tenancies locally.

The Martin & Co team in Kidlington is headed by Branch Manager Aaron, whose team includes Sam who is our Senior Lettings Negotiator,

Annie who is our Property Manager, and Debbie who is our Sales Negotiator.

Managing Director Bill Cooper says:

"Our Kidlington team has multi-year experience of the local property market, and includes all the key skills required to provide a personal and holistic service to our clients. We pride ourselves on developing close working relationships with our clients, and assisting them to maximise financial returns on their property investments."

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News

Have your say on healthcare

WNSU to have a say on healthcare is the focus of your say.

Oxford Health NHS Foundation Trust is holding a series of roundtable events to engage with patients, carers, employees and members of the public to help decide the future of healthcare provision.

People interested in joining the trust can become a member of the council of governors and represent the views of the public in their area.

Community involvement manager at the trust, Julie Pitt said: "By having the agreement, involvement in such as a governor, governors, individuals can

able to shape the future of healthcare and have their voices heard in important local healthcare issues."

Membership opportunities in these and can be done online or at one of the roundtable events.

Discussion events will be held at Abingdon Community Hospital on Tuesday from midday to 1pm, Wallingford Community Hospital on March 1 from 10am to 1pm, Twickenham Community Hospital, Denley from 1pm to 1pm, Banbury Community Hospital on March 8 from 10am to 1pm and Watlington Community Hospital on March 22 between 10am and midday.

Body cameras to prevent abuse

RECYCLING centre staff in Oxfordshire will be given body worn cameras to better protect them from abusive visitors.

Employees at seven household waste recycling centres in the county will adopt the cameras but neither will they wear the cameras nor will they be seen by the public. The cameras have enhanced picture resolution with the public and helps the drivers and damage minimising or abusive situations from recording anything, evidence of it does.

The cameras will be used as part of standard work uniforms but will not record at the time.

Members of staff will wear cameras

the person when they intend to turn the cameras on.

More than 1,300 people visited the sites last year with around 100 reported reports of physical and verbal abuse by a number of people on recycling centre staff.

Group councillor Frances Coleman welcomed the new equipment. "The safety of our staff and customers is our number one priority and using this technology will only be an enhancement."

"Knowing that you could be filmed could be a deterrent for people who want to make their lives better before they do."

Reckling Recycling Centres in Oxford will be the first to adopt the recording gear.

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Charity of the year 2018 – Helen & Douglas House

Reality TV star's big gift to boost funding

By George Webb

Big Brother star Craig Phillips is not one to shy away from grand gestures: as the series ends, he will be donating the house to charity to support local underprivileged children.

The property developer gave away all his prize money when he was crowned winner of the reality TV show in 2009. He will now be in the end giving to be an exceptionally good guy.

Craig used to live in a grand Victorian house in the city but he had to sell it as he was in a financial crisis. He now lives in a small house in the city.

The couple said that instead of gifts, guests should visit the Helen & Douglas House, a charity that helps young people who are homeless and in need of support.

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Craig Phillips and wife Laura are asking guests to donate cash to Helen & Douglas House instead of giving gifts – they will be donating Mr and Mrs DIT, a digital platform offering tips on a range of home and garden ideas. Their request is to help the charity help young people who are homeless and in need of support.



Local music Helen & Douglas House, a charity that helps young people who are homeless and in need of support, is asking guests to donate cash to Helen & Douglas House instead of giving gifts – they will be donating Mr and Mrs DIT, a digital platform offering tips on a range of home and garden ideas. Their request is to help the charity help young people who are homeless and in need of support.



Put on your dancin' shoes and join in

A FUSION of dance styles will be showcased across the city as Oxfordshire's annual dance festival returns to the city centre.

The Oxfordshire Dance Festival will return to the city centre in 2018, with a focus on dance styles that are popular with young people.

Now in its 10th year, the 10-day festival has moved to the city centre, with a focus on dance styles that are popular with young people.

The city's annual dance festival, which has been running since 2008, is a celebration of dance and a chance for young people to showcase their talents.

The festival will feature a variety of dance styles, including hip-hop, street dance, and contemporary dance.

The festival will also feature a variety of other activities, including workshops, masterclasses, and a chance for young people to perform on stage.

For more information, visit the Oxfordshire Dance Festival website.

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The festival will also feature a variety of other activities, including workshops, masterclasses, and a chance for young people to perform on stage.

For more information, visit the Oxfordshire Dance Festival website.

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News

Joining a larger trust will help to improve schools

By George Welch

YET another academy trust that runs three primary schools in Havant and Fareham Leys will join a bigger schools group.

Blackford Academy Trust (BAT) schools, which oversees more than 1,000 pupils at Christchurch Meadow School, Pagans School and Winkfield Community School, will merge into a United Learning by the end of the academic year.

Trustees and the three headteachers of the line of schools agreed that working with a bigger trust would improve the quality of the schools in the long term.

Chris Jones, chairman of BAT said: "It is an opportunity to secure high performance over the long term and we considered some time ago how this could best be achieved under a bigger parent trust with deeper resources."

"After very thorough review we are delighted to have reached agreement with United Learning to merge BAT schools with them."

"United Learning has the track record, the resources and the values

which we believe will greatly benefit the pupils and parents of Christchurch Meadow and Pagans."

United Learning already runs schools in Havant including North Christchurch Academy and (Havant) Priests Community School, as well as other secondary and independent schools across the country.

Its chief executive Jon Cole said the partnership would speed up improvements at the Christchurch schools.

In the latest Ofsted reports, Christchurch Meadow and Winkfield were deemed as requiring improvement while Pagans was considered to good by inspectors. Mr Cole said: "There is a great deal to achieve about the three schools and we know how popular they are with local families."

"There are, of course, also areas for further improvement. Unlike the schools, this addition is obvious."

"By being part of our group, they will be able to retain everything that is currently successful while receiving the sharing of expertise, best practice and operational management that our schools benefit from and that will help them drive up improvement at pace."



Champion Magic Mike jumps for joy with owner Sera Robertson at the Manchester Championship Dog Show. Picture: Anna Jones

TOP dog Magic Mike was jumping for joy after claiming to success at one of the UK's largest dog shows.

The 18-month-old Irish Rottweil, Griffin London, best 3,500 other dogs to claim the title at the prestigious Manchester Championship Dog Show in Stafford last month.

Shirley Miller, owner of the dog, said: "It was such an amazing feeling of joy and pride when Mike was chosen as the best in show winner."

"The picture is happening that never think it will be your own dog which gets selected. Mike is such a sweet boy."

Success runs in the family too - Sir's husband Sera Robertson Mike's mother. Jerry is the best in show title in 2009 as well.

The tough-looking Irish Rottweil Griffin London was originally bred to tend here in the hosiery-filled houses of the Victorian district of northern France. They are known to be calm, happy, independent and willing to please.

When it was first bred, "Rotties are a breed which enjoys life regardless of what sort of day you may be having yourself." They always make you smile."

Williams helps to engineer future careers

GEORGE BAKER/Future Careers Williams is hoping to "kick start a skills revolution" by encouraging young people to pursue a career in the industry.

Williams is backing the Government's Year of Engineering 2010 campaign across the industry's profile services across a 10-year plan in a major career option.

The campaign promotes STEM subjects among young people to acquire mathematics and science skills.

Williams has previously offered students such as the Williams Engineering Academy, Subgroup Williams Engineer of the Future award, and internships and apprenticeships to give students a head start in a career in the industry.

Human resources director, Nicola Jaffer, said: "For 10 years, Williams has been at the forefront of engineering innovation."

"Many of the group's legendary engineering figures began their career at Williams so we know the importance of engineering and developing engineering talent."

"We are encouraging and excited a new generation of engineering talent. We are delighted to support the Year of Engineering, which we believe could kick start a skills revolution."

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Get ready for Winter

Now's the perfect time to replace your garden fence once and for all. Anna Ryder Richards - Designer and Interviewer Presenter - takes a closer look at Colourfence, the revolutionary low-maintenance system.

If Christmas plans aren't fully going to season, why not give your garden a festive touch with a new fence? Colourfence is a new system that's perfect for winter. It's made from recycled plastic and is designed to look like a real fence. It's perfect for winter because it's made from recycled plastic and is designed to look like a real fence. It's perfect for winter because it's made from recycled plastic and is designed to look like a real fence.

One of the main reasons why you should consider a new fence is that it's made from recycled plastic. This means it's environmentally friendly and it's also very durable. It's perfect for winter because it's made from recycled plastic and is designed to look like a real fence. It's perfect for winter because it's made from recycled plastic and is designed to look like a real fence.

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Q No matter what I treat my wooden fence with, nothing seems to prevent it rotting or looking shabby for very long.

A Treating your fence is a time-consuming and expensive task. It's also a losing battle. Most simply want a low-maintenance alternative when by an occasional wash down will keep it looking great for up to 25 years GUARANTEED!



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Say 'I Do' to a wedding with a twist

By Samantha McGiegar

ANNO-INTERTHUS presents the campy Gothic horror film 'Dracula'.

The film will come to the Oxford Playhouse from March 1 to 5. In the film, Dracula is a vampire who seduces women, but the production also aims to challenge all within the ceremony and concept of marriage.

Described as 'a beautiful show with visceral storytelling and emotionally loaded physicality', this production explores the dark of love.

It has been called in question how we are chosen to marry, the rules it imposes, the vows it binds us with, and the actions we feel we must follow.

Set in a dystopian world, The Wedding Imagines are all actions, words, and the actions we feel we must follow.

Engagements, the terms of the relationship? And can we consider a choice?

Travelling through every emotion, and making a revolution, Dracula has created an intense show focusing on sexual, social, and sexual expression.

Let by artistic director And Lane. The film is a perfect example of Dracula's powerful performance.



style, visual, visceral and emotional, Dracula is a masterpiece of imagination, music, and emotion.

This production was inspired by the complexities of human nature and the way these emotions and the way of social cohesion within communities into question.

Dracula will host a post-show panel discussion of each scene on the film to explore key themes from the show - including and social cohesion, and the way of social cohesion within communities into question.

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Bookshop to stage gothic horror Dracula

CREATION Theatre is back in the city with a new production of the classic gothic horror Dracula. The production starts its run on March 2.

Set in White in the 19th, the play, which is a new production of the classic gothic horror Dracula, is a new production of the classic gothic horror Dracula. The production starts its run on March 2.

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TOP TV	BBC 1	BBC 2	ITV	Channel 4	Channel 5
	6.45pm <i>Ant and Dec's Saturday Night Takeaway</i>	6.45pm <i>Cross-America: Subliminal Journeys</i>	6.45pm <i>James Martin's Food Heroes</i>	6.45pm <i>Adrian Cullen in the City</i>	6.45pm <i>The Wonderful World of Pussycat</i>
MORNING	9.45am <i>Wider Olympics</i>	9.45am <i>Animal Talk: Loose Species</i> 10.00am <i>Helen Mirren Under the Hammer</i> 10.45am <i>Ant and Dec's Saturday Night Takeaway</i> 10.45am <i>HomeMade</i>	9.45am <i>Lancashire The Jeremy Kyle Show</i> 10.25am <i>The Morning</i>	9.45am <i>IndiWeek from the Sun</i> 10.25am <i>Everybody Loves Raymond: Home</i> 10.50am <i>Ant and Dec's Saturday Night Takeaway</i> 11.00am <i>Unsung Hero: Peter Dinklage</i>	9.45am <i>Daily Dispatch</i> 10.25am <i>Ruby Rains</i> 10.50am <i>Ant and Dec's Saturday Night Takeaway</i> 11.00am <i>HomeMade</i> 11.45am <i>The Nightingale</i> 12.15pm <i>City: Never Clean Again</i>
AFTERNOON	1.00pm <i>SITC: Present & Future</i> 1.25pm <i>Regional News and Weather</i> 1.45pm <i>Goodies</i> 2.15pm <i>The Crooked</i> 2.45pm <i>Secret to the Country</i> 3.00pm <i>Get Away for the Weekend</i> 3.15pm <i>HomeMade</i>	10.45pm <i>Regional News and Weather</i> 11.00pm <i>Ant and Dec's Saturday Night Takeaway</i>	11.45pm <i>Lancashire The Jeremy Kyle Show</i> 12.15pm <i>The Morning</i>	11.45pm <i>Channel 4 News</i> 12.15pm <i>Everybody Loves Raymond: Home</i> 12.45pm <i>Ant and Dec's Saturday Night Takeaway</i> 1.00pm <i>Unsung Hero: Peter Dinklage</i>	11.45pm <i>SITC: Present & Future</i> 12.15pm <i>Regional News and Weather</i> 12.45pm <i>Goodies</i> 1.15pm <i>The Crooked</i> 1.45pm <i>Secret to the Country</i> 2.00pm <i>Get Away for the Weekend</i> 2.15pm <i>HomeMade</i>
EVENING	6.00pm <i>SITC: Present & Future</i> 6.25pm <i>Regional News and Weather</i> 6.45pm <i>Goodies</i> 7.15pm <i>The Crooked</i> 7.45pm <i>Secret to the Country</i> 8.00pm <i>Get Away for the Weekend</i> 8.15pm <i>HomeMade</i>	6.00pm <i>SITC: Present & Future</i> 6.25pm <i>Regional News and Weather</i> 6.45pm <i>Goodies</i> 7.15pm <i>The Crooked</i> 7.45pm <i>Secret to the Country</i> 8.00pm <i>Get Away for the Weekend</i> 8.15pm <i>HomeMade</i>	6.00pm <i>SITC: Present & Future</i> 6.25pm <i>Regional News and Weather</i> 6.45pm <i>Goodies</i> 7.15pm <i>The Crooked</i> 7.45pm <i>Secret to the Country</i> 8.00pm <i>Get Away for the Weekend</i> 8.15pm <i>HomeMade</i>	6.00pm <i>SITC: Present & Future</i> 6.25pm <i>Regional News and Weather</i> 6.45pm <i>Goodies</i> 7.15pm <i>The Crooked</i> 7.45pm <i>Secret to the Country</i> 8.00pm <i>Get Away for the Weekend</i> 8.15pm <i>HomeMade</i>	6.00pm <i>SITC: Present & Future</i> 6.25pm <i>Regional News and Weather</i> 6.45pm <i>Goodies</i> 7.15pm <i>The Crooked</i> 7.45pm <i>Secret to the Country</i> 8.00pm <i>Get Away for the Weekend</i> 8.15pm <i>HomeMade</i>

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The daily hysterical headline about house prices is misleading

Bill Cooper, co-founder of The Oxford Property Blog and managing director of Martin & Co, Oxford



"Oxford house prices are stagnating", "Oxford houses least affordable under the UK", "The house price bubble is set to burst", "Housing Armageddon?", "Just a bubble at the typical national headline in the printed and digital media daily. Yes, it seems we Brits are completely obsessed with property, especially when the times are difficult."

Given that I am one of the business of writing about Oxford's property market, I thought I'd say a little

more to establish some facts and to share them with you. However, I have recently updated the UK Cities house price index with data to December 2010, so it is a good time to take a look and consider the facts.

In general UK cities lead that they understand property at best as it is a sector outside their. And yet, so many people seem to react to short-term trends, changing their investment decisions because of the headlines they read.

According to the HouseIndex, an average Oxford property is now worth £425,000 at a time when an average London house is worth £480,000. So, an average Oxford property is now worth 87% of an average London property. Only Cambridge gets close to Oxford and London with an average house value of £484,000. But London prices have been falling as easily Oxford will suffer a similar fall. And this is only in the short term. Towards the end of last year, Oxford properties did slip slightly according to the index, but across the 12 months to December 2010, Oxford's house prices have performed better than any other UK city.

We are often told that investment is primarily about looking to the future, but the HouseIndex data in support of that assertion. Below is an analysis that shows Oxford house prices in context with UK house prices in general.

Oxford vs UK House Prices

Presumably graphs can be seen that the UK house price index had a positive consistent growth curve over the period from 1995, to 2008 after which it had a steep slip along with 2009/10 with a negative curve recovery to the end of 2010, in which our prices had recovered to their 2007 highs. In comparison, since 1995 Oxford property has consistently outperformed the UK average following a steeper growth curve, experiencing a more dramatic short-term fall during 2009/10 since when it is recovering but has significantly slipped compared to 2007/08 levels during 2011/12.

Oxford vs London House Prices

So together Oxford does compare to London? Well the analysis above shows how clearly Oxford lags behind every track the London market (shown). With a gap in average values opening since 2005, in London has performed the index UK market house average growth rates consistently strongly and for

years, investment since the market has recovered.

Oxford vs Cambridge House Prices

And let us not forget the rivalry with Cambridge. How does Oxford compare with Cambridge? The analysis above is also available for the online tracking of Oxford (Mark Green) and Cambridge property. Both prices, demonstrating that both cities benefit from their world-renowned universities, their proximity to London and their long-term investment in the knowledge-based sector. What these analyses really show is that property is a viable long-term investment, and that property owners should not be taken off guard by short-term fluctuations and alarming headlines. Even a multi-generational event like the credit crunch which had a year's fall on an average property for 12 months, is now a matter of history with the long-term trend of growth having been restored.

Oxford vs UK House Prices



Oxford vs London House Prices



Oxford vs Cambridge House Prices



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and with the passing of January – a month almost universally believed – they put Oxford on its list. Whether the situation, it seems that Valentine's Day increases the way people to consider a new home.

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Andrews

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U's left with mountain to climb after falling to 13th

By George Walsh

Rotherham United 3

Anthony Forde 5, Richard Twiss 25, Michael Smith 52

Oxford United 1

James Henry 43

Attendance: 7,207 (360 away)

WIMBORNE Rotherham United proved too strong for struggling Oxford United, who slipped into the bottom half of the table for the first time since October following defeat in South Yorkshire.

The second U's were outplayed 3-1 by the Williams at the New York Stadium, a result that cost United a 10th place game match.

James Henry scored a fine solo goal as the striker of half time – a note positive in another loss – but the visitors were slowly one goal down by the post.

Careless manager Derek Fisher, who said his side were likely to be beaten, was criticised for the loss but Rotherham lost to the Gillingham League One team in the end was not unexpected.

The hosts had already disappointed twice by the time Anthony Forde scored the half post before Smith scored from 20 yards to seal a late victory over the visitors.

It should have been two goals long after Carl Edwards, starting his 100th start for United, produced one of the finest goals of the season, topping a Michael Smith header from six yards into the goal.

Paul Warne, a defender who had not scored since the second goal, scored his first goal since the second goal, scored his first goal since the second goal, scored his first goal since the second goal.



James Henry, who scored United's only goal, drives a shot at goal. Picture: Steve Dunlop

when Richard Twiss scored from 20 yards on the half hour mark.

Henry United's defender said that a wonderful effort took the goal of the first in a goal back for the U's. Remarkably, the striker could have finished things in injury time half a net, but he was a fine one from Mark Smith.

Any recovery was wiped in the half when Rotherham made it 3-1 shortly after the restart. Smith opening up the two goal home advantage on one with a tap in.

The result made it five wins in the league for Rotherham who climbed their unbeaten run to 12 games. After weeks, a disappointed manager said he was not satisfied with the bumper and desire

of the players to get back into the game had added. "We can't keep shoving ourselves in the last 10 minutes, you need a consistent win."

United are 13th while Saturday's visitors, the Exeter Plymouth Argyle, bottom of the table in October, have climbed to eighth, only three points off the play-offs.

Putting hard work in on training pitch

DEBENTURE Rob Deane, 30, scored his first goal since he moved to the club after leaving his first Oxford United appearance in the first defeat of the season.

United on Tuesday. The centre back, who spent his time in the club after leaving his first Oxford United appearance in the first defeat of the season.

The 21-year-old spent the first season of his career at the club, but he was not in the starting line-up against the Millers.

The full-time half said: "It's good to make my debut and it was a disappointing night against a good Rotherham side that have a really good understanding of their game plan."

Deane played a consistent defence against the Millers, who got the better of the visitors to score Rotherham's third goal.

"I will always, which is a challenge like that, and after the game I will always stay in the team – it is a long game," he said.

Deane will have a good game but admitted that Oxford could have got something from the visit to the Park.

He said: "We had our chances and we had a few good spells in the game where we looked promising."

"We just need to get out the goals that we're conceding and we'll work our hardest on the training pitch to do that."



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